

U.S. Patent Appln. 10/620,872
Amendment After Final Rejection filed July 26, 2005
Response to Office Action mailed May 5, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 8-11 have been deemed to present allowable subject matter. The Examiner said these claims would be allowed if suitably rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 15, 18 and 19 are independent.

By this Amendment Applicants seek to revise claim 8 as the Examiner said would render that claim allowable, cancel claims 1 and 15-19, and amend claims 2-7, 12 and 13 to depend from allowable claim 8 instead of now-cancelled claim 1 (claims 9-11 all ultimately depend from claim 8 and so need not be rewritten). In addition, claims 2-7 and 12-14 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 8 and so are believed to be allowable at least for the same reasons as claim 8. None of these changes raise new issues, and so entry of such changes is believed to be proper.

The foregoing changes are made only to expedite allowance of this application and not because Applicants believe these changes are required to satisfy any patentability requirements. In addition, Applicants do not consider these changes to reflect a narrowing of the subject matter covered by those claims, meaning the scope of those claims remains unchanged.

The Objection to the Claims

Claim 17 was objected to because of certain language therein.

In view of the cancellation of claim 17, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is moot.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

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**The Rejections Under
35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 12, 13 and 15-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,685,296 to Mochizuki et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and submit the following arguments in support thereof.

Claim 1 has been cancelled, and so the corresponding portion of this rejection is now moot.

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 12 and 13 have been revised and now all ultimately depend from allowable claim 8. Consequently, these claims are likewise allowable over Mochizuki.

For all the foregoing reasons, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

**The Rejections Under
35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mochizuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,016,519 to Chida et al.

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mochizuki in view of U.S. Patent Application Publn. No. 2003/0128245 to Walker and U.S. Patent No. 5,673,053 to Marthinsson.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and submit the following arguments in support thereof.

Claims 4 and 14 both now depend upon allowable claim 8, and so claims 4 and 14 are themselves patentable over the cited references at least for the same reasons as claim 8.

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Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection and submit that entry of this Amendment will place the present application in condition for allowance. It is further submitted that entry of this Amendment can be approved by the Examiner consistent with Patent and Trademark Office practice, since the changes made should not require a substantial amount of additional work by the Examiner. It is believed that the changes presented herein address matters that the Examiner has previously considered.

It is respectfully submitted that all objections and rejections are overcome. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. Nevertheless, should the Commissioner deem any fee(s) to be now or hereafter due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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